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SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1911.

SHOOTING UP THE COTTON EXCHANGE.

After Lewis Parker got through with the New York Cotton Exchange it resembled nothing so much as the old battleship "Texas" after the "New Hampshire" got through shooting at it. It was cruel, but it was magnificent. Everybody except Brother Marsh, the official representative of the common enemy of both producers and manufacturers, and a mighty nice man, he is, to be sure, seemed to enjoy it, and the vigor with which these two eminent men went at each other. It was all "parliamentary," of course, and strictly within the rules of the game; but it was a most heartening spectacle which we wish all of the people who are raising cotton could have seen for themselves. There were assertions and denials and admissions.

The price of the raw material is not properly reflected in the quotations of cotton exchanges. The price on the exchanges should be truly reflective of the price of spot cotton.

The prices reflected on the exchanges are merely the result of speculation for or against the value of the commodity.

It is seldom that the prices of contracts on that Exchange (the New York Exchange) are on a parity with spot cotton, or truly represent the prices of spot cotton in the community of production, plus the carrying charge to market.

A majority of the members of the New York Cotton Exchange are more impressed with the view that it is to their interest to cater to speculators than to make of their body a legitimate exchange, reflective of the true value of the commodity in which they deal.

These are some of the points made by the committee on the relations of the manufacturers with the cotton exchanges in their report which caused so exciting a time at the meeting of the American Cotton Manufacturers' Association on Thursday, and the remedy for the evils complained of was referred to the same committee with authority to take the case to the legislative bodies for such correction as may be necessary should the exchanges refuse to do on their own motion what the law can, and ought to, and will compel them to do.

The report of the committee was supported in a powerful speech by Mr. Parker. According to President Marsh, the New York Cotton Exchange is an association of merchants formed for the purpose of dealing in cotton. Many of them probably never saw a stalk of cotton growing, never actually owned a bale of the staple in their lives, know little and care less as to the state of the crop, and yet fix the price and sell what they haven't got and never had, and when they sell fail to deliver unless the market which they manipulate comes their way so that they can make, however their customers may lose. Manufacturers are not expected to use the Exchange, and the farmers who make the cotton, and who should have something to say as to what price they will take for it, are also not expected to have anything to do with the rules of this company of so-called merchants who handle the business. When there is not cotton enough to go around, the producers have been told that the price was 13 cents, when it was actually selling at 15 1-2 cents. There is not a rule of the New York Exchange that is not in favor of the seller. The price quoted by the New York Exchange does not represent the price of cotton, but only a fictitious quotation put on a paper transaction by these merchants. It is immoral for a man to sell cotton he hasn't got and doesn't expect to get. About 80 per cent. of the transactions on the New York Exchange are hedge transactions.

All these points, and many more besides, were made by Mr. Parker, and they could not be answered. It is the New York Exchange against the manufacturers and the producers. The Exchange will not give the total figures of its transactions. The total crop last year was 10,651,000 bales, the sales of cotton on the Exchange were hundreds of millions of bales. The price of actual cotton was put up or put down to serve the side of the market on which the merchants were arrayed. If they were bulls the price went up, if they were bears the price came down. When the price went up the manufacturers had to pay the freight, when it came down the cotton growers lost—for the benefit of the merchants who sell what they haven't got, and what they have never expected to have. As Mr. Parker expressed it, "it is just a case of swing one way, and then swing the other," an always alluring sort of sport for the alleged merchants when the thing swings their way.

Mr. Parker did not make any statement that he could not and did not establish. There has not been so refreshing and illuminating a debate for years. So many sharp passages between the manufacturers and the merchants, and all of the highest educative value to the people who make the cotton and the Legislatures which must find some way to protect buyers, sellers and producers. This is a matter which should be settled out of court and without the aid of restrictive and regulative legislation. There is great merit in the exchanges, there is no special harm in "futures," but the men who grew the cotton, first, in order, and the men who make up the cotton into yarn and cloth are surely as much entitled to consideration as the speculators who make the market what they want by selling what they haven't got.

GETTING ON WITHOUT DICKINSON.

Before the end of the month it is expected that peace will prevail throughout the Republic of Mexico, Diaz having yielded to the inevitable and announced his determination to surrender the office of President of that country. We are very sorry for him, but sorrier for Mexico, which, as it stands to-day, is the work of his hands. Madero thinks that he will be chosen to be his successor, but Madero as an executive officer has not been tested. He has attained distinction as a destroyer, but, as we happen to know in the United States by the experience of seven years of irresponsible administration, it is far easier to pull down than it is to build up. If Diaz had thought more of his personal fortunes than of the good of his country, and had strengthened his political power by establishing and maintaining an effective standing army, the revolution would have died a-borning. As it is, his service to Mexico has been rewarded by his failure at the height of his glory.

The point we wish to make now, however, is that the Hon. Jacob McGavock Dickinson will realize, in view of the cessation of hostilities in Mexico, that the President was wholly justified in declining to accept his offer to remain at his post until this cruel war was over. It wasn't necessary; but, for the looks of things, it is to be hoped that our new War Lord, the Hon. Harry L. Stimson, will not claim any of the credit which belongs to his predecessor for the successful conduct of the manoeuvres on the Texan frontier.

THE SEAL OF VIRGINIA.

We are told that the movement to change the Great Seal of the State of Virginia is simply a movement to get back to first principles, so to say, the present seal being the seal adopted by the Pierpont Administration when Virginia was a military district, and not the seal adopted by the fathers. That is enough. The seal should be changed at once, and the sooner the better.

WOODROW WILSON IN THE WEST.

Woodrow Wilson has a firm hold, not a strangle hold, it is true, but a firm hold, on his modesty. When he was asked in Portland, Oregon, Thursday whether or not he would be a candidate for the Democratic nomination for President in 1912, he made this reply: "I certainly have not the audacity to seek the nomination, but no man is too big to refuse it." That is to say, he wouldn't run from it, he is not afraid of it—he is not afraid of anything or anybody—and he is the best fitted man for the job who has yet been named for the place, excepting always, of course, our first love (on the day after the last Presidential election, let it not be forgotten, we said it first) the Hon. William Jennings Bryan.

The present expedition of the Governor of New Jersey has nothing to do with the nomination. He has made a good many speeches and has been compelled to touch upon some of the great issues of the day, but the keynote of his journey was struck in his opening address at Kansas City when he discussed with great ability and clearness the relation of the title to Progress. No one who was making an active campaign for the Presidential nomination from either of the two great political parties would select a subject like that for an opening.

In his address to the Press Club at Portland, the school teacher, who has unlearned in the few months since he entered the political field what he taught his students for twenty years in the class room, talked about the "Oregon system," which is said to have brought the Government much nearer to the people, and which he lauded highly, and took occasion to remark that he was not at all in accord with the recall system as invoked on the judiciary. From which it would appear that he is recovering himself, and that the leaven of the class room is still strong within him. The best way for him to get the nomination is to stand by the old ways, and to follow in the ancient paths. The people of the country are sick of fads.

THE LAW'S DELAY.

A little more than five years passed away between the beginning of the prosecution of the Standard Oil Company and the decision in the case. The action taken is briefly outlined below:

January 22, 1906—Attorney-General Moody announced the prosecution.

November 15, 1906—Dissolution proceedings instituted in the Circuit Court at St Louis.

September 17, 1907—First testimony taken at New York.

November 18, 1908—John D. Rockefeller testified.

January 22, 1909—Final testimony taken at Chicago.

March 9, 1909—Government files its brief.

April 5, 1909—Arguments begun at St. Louis.

June 1, 1909—Suits taken under advisement by the court.

November 20, 1909—Standard Oil declared to be an illegal combination and ordered dissolved.

December 17, 1909—The Standard Oil appealed to the United States Supreme Court.

March 14, 1910—Supreme Court heard the appeal.

March 16, 1910—Closing arguments made.

April 11, 1910—Case ordered reargued by the Supreme Court.

January 12, 1911—Suit reargued.

May 15, 1911—Decision rendered.

This case was supposed to test the effectiveness of existent laws against trusts and monopolies. It was much to be desired that it be brought to a just and successful end as soon as possible. Its great importance and the mass of material to be examined necessarily involved time as well as care and caution, but even while taking all this into account, one can hardly escape the conclusion that it was too long drawn out. The issue was unimportant as compared with the test. As the Macon Telegraph says, "It is necessary to know whether existing laws or new laws are needed."

One of the chief reasons for this tremendous delay is that the higher courts have too much work to do. The United States Supreme Court is almost five years behind its docket. During the present term it decided 300 cases and 1,000 new ones were put on the docket.

The most serious cause of the delay is that our legal processes have been devised in the interest of the defense rather than for the prosecution. Therefore, where command of money is not limited, and where the best legal talent may be secured, judges cannot always avoid delay.

On the real fault of the situation, the Macon Telegraph makes the best statement that we have seen:

"We may add that complete justice will not reign in our tribunals until the poor man, as readily as the rich man, can command both the costly processes of appeal and the services of the strongest legal talent. This is the reform that is most needed—the reform that will make assured fact of the indefinite theory that the Standard Oil Company, or the individual multi-millionaire, has no better chance in court than the humblest citizen. The latter, at present, irrespective of the merits of his case, cannot appeal from a lower to a higher court at all unless he can raise a sufficient sum to command the necessary legal processes. In a future era the State will come to the aid of such a man."

That is the sort of Socialism which no man can justly criticize.

GOOD PLACE FOR A TWILIGHT ZONE.

There is a contention about a strip of land which was washed over into Texas from the Mexican side when the Rio Grande was on one of its periodical sprees, and over which the United States has been exercising jurisdiction, against the peace and dignity and international rights of our neighboring republic. It is said to be worth something like seven million dollars, more or less, and Mexico wants it, and, as it is a part of Texas, Mexico ought to have it. There will then be more of Texas than this country can, with any regard to safety, assimilate.

If there is to be any more fighting on the frontier, and frequent scraps may be looked for after Madero takes charge, some bullets are almost certain to fly over into American territory, and, while the disputed strip is being adjusted, we would suggest that it might be well for the two countries to establish a sort of twilight zone so wide that bullets shot on one side cannot go over to the other side, upon which zone neither side could trespass in future target practice. It might be called No Man's Land, and over it as Governor, acting under the protection of Mexico, on the one hand, and of the United States on the other, we would suggest that Cone Johnson be erected.

THE MORMONS ARE AFTER US.

Something terrible is always going to happen. One day, the Japanese are on the point of landing Japanese troops in California, the next the United States will be compelled to avenge its slaughtered saints done to death on the Mexican border, and we have La Follette always with us, not to speak of Jonathan Bourne and "Gum-shoe Bill," when he is really in action, is enough to make the bravest shake in his goloshes. It is "double, double toil and trouble; fire burn, and cauldron bubble."

The latest thing to keep the country awake o'nights is the adoption of a resolution by the Wisconsin Legislature memorializing Congress to provide for an amendment to the Constitution prohibiting polygamy, because, as Assemblyman Gettle, progressive Republican, the author of the resolution, declares: "The Mormons are endeavoring to get control of this country by the use of money." In his opinion, "the influence of the Mormon Church is greater than that of Wall Street, with which it is allied, as is shown by the seating of Senator Smoot." We do not know how that is, not having any relations in Wall Street direct or remote; but we have heard through some of the Society columns of our Metropolitan contemporaries that certain prominent people in that Street have been on rather intimate terms with more than one wife, so to say, at a time, and without seeming to affect their general standing in the community.

It is utter nonsense, however, to talk about the Mormons buying up the country for polygamy by the use of money. They haven't got enough. It took something like $16,000,000 to defeat Mr. Bryan in 1896, or these were the figures agreed upon at the time as about the approximate cost of his defeat, and a very large part of this immense sum was put up, as generally believed, by "the interests" in Wall Street. Years later, it was one of the kings of that street who collected $250,000 from Wall Street and its connections to save the State for the Colonel. So far as we know there are no Mormons, as such, among the potential factors of that den of iniquity, and this would be a particularly bad time for the Mormons to touch Wall Street for money enough to buy the country. It would be an unreasonable restraint of trade, and we do not think that there is anything at all in the Gettle movement except that LaFollette, for all that we know to the contrary, may be behind it, and where LaFollette leads there will be "some few" to follow.

It would be a fearful thing, of course, if this country should fall into the hands of the Mormons; but after being in the hands of the Republicans for half a century, it would be able to stand even the Mormons without losing very much of its self-respect. Steeled in adversity, it can stand adversity.

"Haven't seen anything like it since I left home," said a cotton mill man from South Carolina, or some other State in the torrid belt, yesterday, while descanting upon the genial warmth of our summer weather in Richmond. It makes things grow; it keeps the pores open. It induces one to think of the predictions of the temperature sharps last Winter, who declared that we should really have cool spells along about now.

An entirely new light has been thrown on the Mecklenburg Declaration by the Raleigh Times, which asserts that it is not true that down in Charlotte they "take 'em off" on the Twentieth of May, for the reason that since 1775, or thereabouts, they have never "put 'em on." Which probably accounts for the "cold-in-the-head" habit which many persons have noted to be characteristic of the "Descendants."

The reunion of the sponsors at Little Rock brought tears to many eyes.

An express company has filed this tariff of charges for shipment from San Francisco to Hong Kong: "Corpse of white persons, $220; corpse of Chinese dead less than one year, $55; corpse of Chinese dead over one year, $35." It would appear that it is cheapest to be a Chinaman dead more than a year.

The weather has been heating up a bit during the last two or three days for the benefit of the Cotton mill people from the South. They could never stand the usually frigid atmosphere in Richmond at this season of the year, endurin' of the entire summer, not to put too fine a point on it, and especially as a good many of them have "taken them off." So it is that we are trying to temper the climate to these shorn lambs, it being the habit of Richmond to always strive to please.

Out in Nebraska there is what is called a Progressive Republican League, and it has proposed to nominate The Colonel for President in 1912, who has written an earnest letter to "My Dear Mr. Shotwell" expressing his appreciation of the good feeling that has inspired the suggestion; but protesting that any such movement would very deeply embarrass him, and insisting that "you and any other friends I have shall do all in their power to prevent any such movement." The construction of this statement is not the best, but the idea is clear, and it is hoped that "My Dear Shotwell" will take The Colonel at his word this time.

George Bernard Shaw positively refuses to come to the United States, because "there is nothing there that can interest me, and the Americans are an appalling, horrible, narrow lot." Can it be that Shaw ever was in Atlanta?

A London medical authority on digestive matters is of opinion that singing a song is a better way to promote a good appetite than drinking something before the meal. He says that to sing just before a meal changes the air in the lungs and expands them in a most beneficial way. It also increases the normal muscular development of the stomach and chest. Very good, but it will be a rather novel sight to go into a cafe in the evening and hear the men and women raising the tune of "Casey Jones" or "Every Little Movement." The only trouble about it would be that it would probably detract from the pleasure one has in hearing the rich eat.

During the last year of his pastorate of the Brick Presbyterian Church in New York, Dr. Henry Van Dyke has refused to accept any salary, but the other day his congregation gave him a beautiful loving cup, in which were two $1,000 checks made payable to two of his favorite charities. That was as graceful as it was proper, another tribute to one of the most likable and most effective preachers.

It is said that the assemblage of V. M. I. alumni at Lexington at "finals" this year will closely resemble in size the army in Texas.

"My Cousin Carus" has lost about $100,000 on account of his enforced silence. His doctor's bills are enormous, and he is losing tremendous sums by his failures to sing. In this case, silence is certainly not golden for the great tenor.

"The many pleasant memories that I have of your delightful city as a result of my last visit will ever be a source of great pleasure." That is what a Boston lawyer wrote a friend here about his stay in Richmond. That's what they all say.

HAS NO SUBSTITUTE
ROYAL


BAKING
POWDER
Absolutely Pure
The only baking powder made from Royal Grape Cream of Tartar
NO ALUM, NO LIME PHOSPHATE

Voice of the People

For the Recall of Judges.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—If the "bench" is so feeble, so debilitated, so inefficient and inconsequent, being relegated to that of merely recording secretary in its functions, why "hands off?" Why not hands on?

How comes it the judge has no live part in the proceedings? Why is it he sits demurely, a weakling, while the chief of the counsel for the defense stalks exultant and irresistibly over the prostrate form of Justice, and says to the heavy-browed, sinister-eyed criminal and the defiant and implacable trusts, "You are at liberty, I set you free, go and prosecute your nefarious and execrable atrocities"?

Who has shorn the judge of his vested powers who should hold jurisdiction over this trial? Who has silenced his voice, that it is no longer resonant with sovereignty? Who has bound him hand and foot, while the criminal proceedings run on for thirty or forty days, and he, defenseless, looks on, impatient to put an end to a notorious farce?

Has the "recall" rendered him inert? How have the people restricted his activities? Is it not in the very condition of which you complain in your editorial of the 15th, that the cause of the "recall" finds it existence?

There is a strange incongruity here. If this judge is a vassal now, how are our liberties the more menaced when he is answerable direct to the people? When do the people fail to judge correctly? Are we not willing to intrust our liberty in their keeping? Then we are not progressing toward restoration.

FRANKLIN.

Richmond.

Sick of War-Time Recollections.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—I am addressing you in a double sense—as an American of Colonial ancestry, and as a newspaper man who is not entirely unknown. The inclosed letter, a copy of one which I sent to the New York Tribune several days ago, will explain itself. For some reason that august tribunal has declined to publish it—perhaps on the theory that "a guilty conscience needs no accuser."

Be that as it may, I am sending it to you, with the hope that you will publish it, stating that the Tribune has declined to do so.

ORVILLE G. VICTOR.

New York.

New York City, May 12, 1911.

To the Editor New York Tribune,
Park Row, City:

Dear Sir,—Is it not a dreadful business that the Tribune and other newspapers are now engaged in? I refer to the daily publication of war events of fifty years ago.

What is the use of arousing recollections and animosities of by-gone times? No Northern family was more devoted to the cause of the Union than mine. I presume you are acquainted with one of my father's works, "The History of the American Rebellion," by Orville J. Victor.

But the war is over, for many and many a year; the Union survives; the Stars and Stripes float over the cotton and tobacco fields of Dixie as well as over the farms and factories of New England. The term "rebel," constantly used in the republication of these war-time dispatches, is peculiarly obnoxious to the reidents of the South, among whom I am proud to number many dear friends and comrades.

When I speak of comrades, I refer to members of the Spanish War veterans. One of the red letter incidents of my life will always be the recollection of when, five years ago, I went to Richmond to help muster in the Fitzhugh Lee Camp, S. W. V., and found myself a prisoner in Richmond, condemned to spend no money because I had no Confederate currency with me." Such hospitality as I then and there experienced I have never met anywhere else.

If any remnants of the Mason and Dixon line remained in 1898, they were swept away when the sons of the Blue and the sons of the Gray marched side by side against a common foe. For God's sake, for the Union's sake, cut out this republication of the horrid events of fifty years ago.

United are the Blue and Gray; in serried ranks they stand—
The boys of North and East and West
—the boys of Dixie Land.
Our uniform is Union blue, above Confederate gray.
And the glory won by each of these
shall never pass away.

Sincerely,
ORVILLE G. VICTOR, S. W. V.,
Late Company M, Eighth Regiment,
New York Volunteers.

The Seal of Virginia.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:

Sir,—Recently I read your editorial on "A Rumored Proposition to Change the Present Seal of This Commonwealth by the Next Legislature." Your adverse criticism, also a tendency on the part of several correspondents to agree with you, leads one to doubt your knowledge of the fact that the present seal of Virginia is not the original seal, in use prior to and during the War Between the States.

I learned this from an interesting and instructive address by General T. T. Munford, at the Confederate reunion in Norfolk last October. General Munford's father was the custodian of the great seal of Virginia, and from his address I learned that the present seal was adopted by the Pierpont administration while Virginia was Military District No. 1.

PHIL F. BROWN.

Blue Ridge Springs, Va.

Daily Queries and Answers

Mark Tapley.

Who was "Mark Tapley"? T. A.

Mark Tapley, a young hostler in the "Blue Dragon" in Dickens's "Martin Chuzzlewit," prided himself on his jollity in adversity. Going out to Eden in North America, as serving companion of Martin Chuzzlewit, he found every discomfort, was swindled by every one and was almost killed by fevers, concluding that it would be a real credit to be jolly under the circumstances. Returning to England and eventually marrying Mrs. Lupin, of the "Blue Dragon," he changed the name of the inn to "Jolly Tapley."

Desert Rivers.

If deserts ever have rivers, how are they different from others? Are there really any such rivers? H. C.

The "wadies" of the Sahara are water courses that are usually dry, but are sometimes filled for a short time after rains. The common use of the dry beds as roads brings about strange drownings in the desert. When the rain comes, the rivers fill suddenly and the members of a caravan are sometimes overwhelmed and drowned before they can climb out of the defile. Dry portions of the Rocky Mountains have occasional heavy summer rains, converting dry channels into swollen floods. Cherry Creek, which passes through Denver, is one of the streams of surprises, as it may be a raging torrent half an hour after being quite dry. Certain Argentina rivers have not sufficient volume to reach the sea. The Primero, for instance, rises in the mountains, where the rainfall is abundant, and is a fair-sized river at Cordoba, but after a course of 130 miles it is lost in a swampy lake in the pampas. The Nile is the most notable example of a river crossing the desert. It is fed by equatorial rains south of Egypt, and for a thousand miles has no branches entering it except small wet weather streams. Other regions also, like the Peruvian Valley of the Piura, which is dry in summer, depend upon irrigation by rivers from moist climates.

English Channel Ferry.

How is the English Channel ferried? READER.

The English Channel is said to have had a ferry for 1,000 years. The first steamship in the service, the Rob Roy, crossed in 1820. The Queen, a Parsons turbine vessel, began running in 1903, and reduced the time between Dover and Calais to fifty minutes.

The Rhine.

Tell me something about the Rhine. INQUIRER.

From its source in Switzerland to the North Sea, the Rhine has a length of 700 miles, of which German territory claims 400 miles. In its course through Germany it widens from about 800 to 3,300 feet. It is unique in its picturesqueness, presenting not only a panorama of well-kept shores, dotted with quaint towns and villages, with a background of vineclad hills or forested and craggy mountains, but showing also many remarkable ruins, including the castles of Rheinfels, Reichenberg Schonburg, Stahleck and Rheinstein. It is made the chief commercial river of Europe by numerous canals, extending its navigation to many leading cities.

Tallest Chimney.

What is the tallest chimney? J. H.

A chimney of Scotland, 420 feet high, is still being mentioned as "the tallest." As a matter of fact the chimney of the smelting works at Butte, Mont., completed about two years ago, is loftier than any other. It is 506 feet in height above the ground, with a diameter of fifty feet at the top, increasing gradually to the base.

Size of Counties.

Are American counties smaller than European? L. W.

Counties in America average smaller than in Europe. The United States has about 3,000, of which Texas claims 243, while Deleware has only three. New York City includes four counties, with a total area of about 327 square miles.

Diseases and Climate.

Do diseases vary with climate. If so, what are some of the diseases of hot countries and of cold countries? O. H. T.

Attempts have been made to classify diseases by climate, one of them having been "The Geography of Disease," by Frank G. Clemow, British physician at Constantinople. Cancer, diarrhoeal disorders, mumps, measles, pneumonia, leprosy, rheumatism, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, whooping cough and many others have occurred at some time in almost every inhabited land. Some diseases, like scarlet fever and diphtheria, are found to be practically confined to temperate or cool climates. Whooping cough, cerebro-spinal fever, rheumatism fever, scurvy, typhus fever and others, though of practically unlimited range, are more common or severe in the cooler latitudes. Malaria and dysentery are striking examples of the few widespread diseases that become more common and severe toward the equator. Many diseases are confined to the tropics, including dengue, mycetoma, liver abscess, Oriental sore, yaws, ankylostomiasis, elephantiasis, etc. Certain diseases, an important group, remain long endemic in limited areas, and at intervals break out and spread. Cholera, plague and yellow fever are the chief examples. The first has several quite permanent endemic centres in the far East but as an epidemic has spread over most of the earth; the second also has many endemic centres not all in the tropics, and has spread widely; the third is endemic only on tropical Atlantic coasts, and its epidemics are more limited.

Pliny's Doves.

What are "Pliny's Doves?" C. S.

"Pliny's Doves" are a wonderful specimen of ancient mosaic preserved at a museum in Rome. The piece represents four doves drinking, with a beautiful border surrounding the figures, and is formed of natural stones, so small that 160 covered only a square inch. It was described by Pliny as an illustration of the perfection the art had reached.

EMPEROR CONSENTS TO COUSIN'S WEDDING

BY LA MARQUISE DE FONTENOY.

EMPEROR NICHOLAS has given his consent to the marriage of his cousin, Princess Tatiana Constantinovna, daughter of the Grand Duke Constantine Constantinovitch, to Prince Constantine Bagration-Muchransky, lieutenant of the Chevalier Gardes regiment, and scion of one of the most ancient houses of the Russian aristocracy, which prides itself on its lineal descent from the biblical King David. The Russian counterpart of the Almanach de Gotha, published by the government at St. Petersburg, lays particular stress on the Jewish origin of the Begration family, insists on its descent from King David, and states that there is no other house, either royal or noble, that can show so ancient an origin. The Bagrations's descent from King David figures in documents still in existence, of the reign of the Byzantine Emperor Constantine VII., who occupied the throne at Constantinople in the ninth century of the Christian era. Twelve hundred years before Christ, the Bagrations were already flourishing as princes and chieftains of all that big Jewish colony that was settled in the Caucasus at the time of the invasion of Palestine by the Assyrian ruler Tiglath Pileser I., the founder of the Assyrian empire, and who, in accordance with the custom in those days, drove most of the inhabitants of the Holy Land from their country into Caucasian captivity. These Jews of the Caucasus retained their Jewish faith until conquered by the Russians, who compelled them to adopt Christianity in its Greek Orthodox form.

The Prince Bagration who is engaged to Princess Tatiana of Russia, though still young in years, has seen quite a good deal of active service, not only in the war against Japan, but likewise in South Africa; for he volunteered for service with the Boers in their struggle against Britain, and was the adjutant of that distinguished French retired cavalry officer, General the Marquis de Villebois, who fell in the conflict, and who included among the members of his staff, Prince Louis of Bourbon-Braganza, one of the sons of Prince Gaston of Orleans, Count d'Eu, and of the ex-Crownprincess of Brazil; Louis de Bourbon fighting under the name of "Louis de Mercey."

Prince Bagration was captured, and having refused to give his parole, was held as a prisoner of war on the island of St. Helena, along with General Cronje, until the restoration of peace. The prince, it may be added, has nothing but appreciation for the friendly and courteous manner in which he was treated by the English authorities at St. Helena, where, owing to the intervention in his behalf of the widowed Czarina, he was the object of particular consideration.

His fiancee, Princess Tatiana, is not a grand duchess, nor yet an Imperial highness; for she represents the fourth generation in descent from the throne, being the great-granddaughter of Emperor Nicholas I., and according to the laws of Russia, the imperial status, with the title of grand duke and grand duchess, only extends to the third generation. This being the case, and since her fiance's family is regarded as one of the mediatized or formerly sovereign houses of the Caucasus, there can be no question of any such mesalliance as took place when Nicholas I.'s favorite daughter, the Grand Duchess Marie, married Count Nicholas Stroganoff.

The princess is a very charming and gifted woman, who is just recovering from a severe accident while out sleighing, and is a pianist and a painter of altogether unusual talent. In fact, she has inherited some of the gifts of her father, Grand Duke Constantine Constantinovitch, translator of Shakespeare's works into Russian, president of the Academy of Sciences; the protector and patron of Gorki; and whose poems, published under the initials of "K. K.," standing for "Konstantine Konstantinovitch," are popular throughout the length and breadth of Russia, on account of their fervent patriotism and their liberalism.

The young people seem to have made each other's acquaintance at Pawlowsk, the favorite residence of Grand Duke Constantine. This is by no means the first matrimonial alliance between the house of Bagration and the reigning family of Russia. For one of the ancestors of the prince, the celebrated General Prince Peter Bagration, married a grandniece of Empress Catherine I., the Countess Skawronkaja.

With regard to the Jewish ancestry of the Bagrations, it may be timely to recall that King George of Great Britain, and consequently also the Kaiser, boast of lineal descent from King David. Genealogical trees, showing this descent, are in existence at Windsor Castle and at the New Palace at Potsdam. They are of modern fabrication. But among the treasures at Hatfield, the country seat of the Marquis of Salisbury, and which was once the favorite home of Queen Elizabeth, there is a genealogical tree dating from her time, measuring forty-five feet in length, and showing her ancestry back through every generation to the biblical King David. It is believed to be the largest genealogical tree in existence.

In Germany, Emperor William has just lost one of his allies, that is to say, one of the score of sovereigns of the confederation known as the German Empire, of which he is the president. The ruler in question was George, Prince of Schaumburg-Lippe, the area of whose dominions did not exceed 150 squares miles, while his subjects numbered something over 40,000. His capital, Buckeburg, where he maintained a full-fledged royal court, governed by the most severe rules of etiquette to be found anywhere in Germany, rejoices in a population of 5,000.

His successor, the new Prince of Schaumburg-Lippe, Prince Adolf, is a subaltern of the Seventh Hussar regiment, which forms part of the garrison of Bonn-on-the-Rhine. He is still unmarried.

On the occasion of the silver wedding of the late Prince George and of his wife some years ago, Emperor William, who was always very fond of them, presented to them the Casjle of Schaumburg, that is to say, the ancestral castle of the family, which, situated in the Prussian province of Hesse-Nassau, and dating from the year 1030, had passed out of the possession of the house of Schaumburg-Lippe at the time of the Thirty Years' War.

One of the best known members of the house of Schaumburg-Lippe was the late Prince William, who occupied a seat in the House of Lords at Berlin, where, being very deaf, he made use of a ear trumpet of enormous size. He was greatly interested in the debates, and used to seat himself or place himself immediately in front of the speaker, aiming the instrument at him, holding it within a few inches of his face in his anxiety not to lose a single word. It was very comical for the spectator, but exceedingly embarrassing for nervous orators.

The rulers of Schaumburg-Lippe have always been very well off, and a curious story is related of the grandfather of the late prince, who occupied the throne during the early decades of the nineteenth century. On one occasion, when the various sovereigns of the German empire were gathered together at Frankfort, at the time when the Imperial Diet used to be held there, and old Baron Meyer Rothschild, the head of the firm, appeared on the scene, all the sovereigns present, including Kings, grand dukes, dukes and princes, rose to greet him as he entered the room. The only one of them who paid no attention to the financier was the Prince of Schaumburg-Lippe, and when one of his fellow monarchs offered to present Rothschild to him, he curtly declined, on the ground that he wanted nothing from him, and that he owed him nothing. Every one else present in the room did. (Copyright, 1911, by the Brentwood Company.)

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